



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 15 2014

OFFICE OF THE  
SCIENCE ADVISOR

(b) (6)

Dear (b) (6):

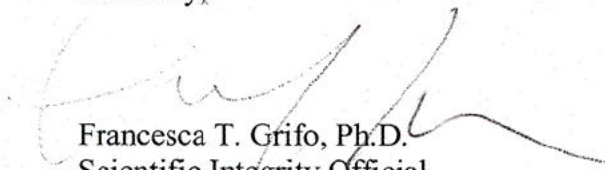
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the scientific and scholarly activities it conducts and that are conducted on its behalf. EPA will not tolerate loss of integrity in the performance of these activities or in the application of science and scholarship in decision making.

(b) (6) requested that the EPA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigate the Agency's decision to not approve the company's analytical method as an alternative method for measuring oil and grease under the Clean Water Act. (b) (6) claimed that an EPA employee had a conflict of interest and purposefully sabotaged the approval. The OIG found that the allegation did not fall under the OIG's purview and referred the case to me, as the EPA Scientific Integrity Official (ScIO).

I convened a Scientific Integrity Review Panel (SIRP) to review the allegation. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the panel has found no basis for (b) (6) complaint. The panel's analysis found no evidence that the EPA employee has any conflict of interest with methods or companies that submit methods for review under the employee's program, nor was the employee in a position to approve or not approve the analytical method as an alternative laboratory analytical method for oil and grease.

This allegation is considered closed. Attached is a copy of the panel's response to the allegation. I have sent this report to the EPA employee, as well, but have no other plans for its distribution. I appreciate your cooperation in this important process.

Sincerely,

  
Francesca T. Grifo, Ph.D.  
Scientific Integrity Official

cc:

(b) (6)